THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In May 2005, 21 captains of industry have issued a statement welocming the move of the Government to have a dialogue with the industry on affirmative action. They have committed to expand their activities for disadvantaged persons with regard to scholarships, company-run private schools, partnership with Government schools, vocational training in-house as well as in partnership with ITIs, vender development programmes etc. The signatories are: Ms. Anu Aga - Chairman of Thermax Group of Companies; Mr. Rahul Bajaj-Bajaj Group of Companies; Mr. Kumara Mangalam Birla-Chairman, Aditya Birla Group; Mr. Tarun Das - Ex Chairman, CII; Mr. Naushad Forbes-Director, Forbes Marshall India; Mr. A.S. Ganguly-Former Chairman of Hindustan Lever & Member of Investment Commission; Mr. Jamshyd N. Godrej-MD, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited; Mr. F.T. Khorakiwala-CEO of SWITZ Group of Companies; Mr. H.F. Khorakiwala-CMD, Wockhardt Limited; Mr. Suresh Krishna-Chairman-TVS Group; Mr. Keshub Mahendra- CMD, Mahindra & Mahindra; Dr. A.C. Muthiah-Chairman, Firest Leasing Company of India Limited; Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal-Ex Chairman, CII; Mr. B. Muthuraman-MD, Tata Steel; Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy-Infosys; Mr. Deepak Parekh-Head of HDFC Bank; Mr. Azim Premji-CEO, Wipro; Mr. S. Ramadorai-CEO, Tata Consultancy Services; Mr. Gurpreet Singh-MD, Continental Devices; Mr. R.N. Tata - Chairman, Tata Sons Limited; and Mr. Gautam Thapar - Chairman, Crompton Greaves Limited.

The above-referred statement is a part of continuing dialogue with industry with regard to affirmative action including reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe youth.

Traditional Tribal Artisans

1535. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government are taking to protect the traditional tribal artisans under the new WTO regime;

(b) whether the new tribal welfare policy would address these concerns of the tribals; and

(c) wheter these tribal people would not be uprooted from their traditional vocations under the new trade regime?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (c) As indicated by the Ministry of Commerce, under the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement of WTO, protection is provided to seven categories of intellectual property rights, *viz.*, copyrights and related rights, patents, geographical indications, trademarks, industrial designs, layout-desings of integrated circuits and undisclosed information. In addition, protection is also provided to new plant varieties. Works of traditional tribal artisans are prior art and their traditional knowledge fall under public domain and therefore these do not belong to any of the above seven categories of intellectual property rights. As such, at present no protection is available to works of traditional tribal artisans as well as their traditional knowledge under the TRIPS Agreement of WTO.

Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) is running a Tribes shop for marketing tribal arts and crafts for benefit of scheduled tribe artisans.

NSTFDC provides financial assistance to eligible Scheduled Tribes for income generating schemes including schemes of ST artisans, costing upto Rs. 10.00 lakh per unit/profit centre through State Channelising Agencies nominated by the respective State/UT Government.

The Department of Culture, also implements a scheme to promote and generate awareness about richness of tribal/rural culture to inculcate respect and admiration for the contribution of tribal communities to various facets of tribal culture, among other measures.

(b) The National Tribal Policy seeks to address all concerns of the scheduled tribe people.

Crimes against tribal girls in Madhya Pradesh

†1536. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minsiter of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that girls from tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh are kidnapped and then forced to practice profane professions;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.